

## Ukraine Document Based Question (DBQ)

### Central Question: What is happening in Ukraine?

Map of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe during the Cold War:



Located in Eastern Europe, Ukraine became a part of the Soviet Union after the Russian Revolution. Ukraine remained a Soviet republic from the 1920s until the collapse of the USSR in 1991. The Ukrainian government still faces challenges of economic reform, preservation of civil liberties, and eliminating government and electoral corruption.

Ukraine has been in the headlines recently because of conflict in the eastern part of the country. Your goal is to try to figure out details about the conflict using the attached documents.

#### Document 1

1. What general events and developments were happening in the year of this document? How do related events influence the writing of the document?
2. What are the long-term consequences for the decision reached in this document?

#### Document 2

3. What does the map tell you about possible divisions in Ukraine?
4. How might the information in the map led to conflict? What role might Russia play?

#### Document 3

5. Why were so many soldiers in Sochi in early 2014?

6. What might happen after the events discussed in the interview?

**Document 4**

7. Who is Vladimir Putin? What might be his goals and what might influence his ambitions?

8. How might the words and tone of the speech lead to conflict?

**Document 5**

9. What are the current developments in Eastern Ukraine?

10. What might be the social, political, and economic consequences of these developments?

In a short paragraph, write a response to the central question: **What is happening in Ukraine?**

**Be sure to cite at least 3 documents as evidence to support your claim.**

## Ukraine DBQ Documents

### Document 1

**Source:** Meeting of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 19 February 1954

Today we are to discuss one question - the joint submission of the Presidium of the RSFSR and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR concerning the transfer of the Crimean Oblast [Region]' from the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

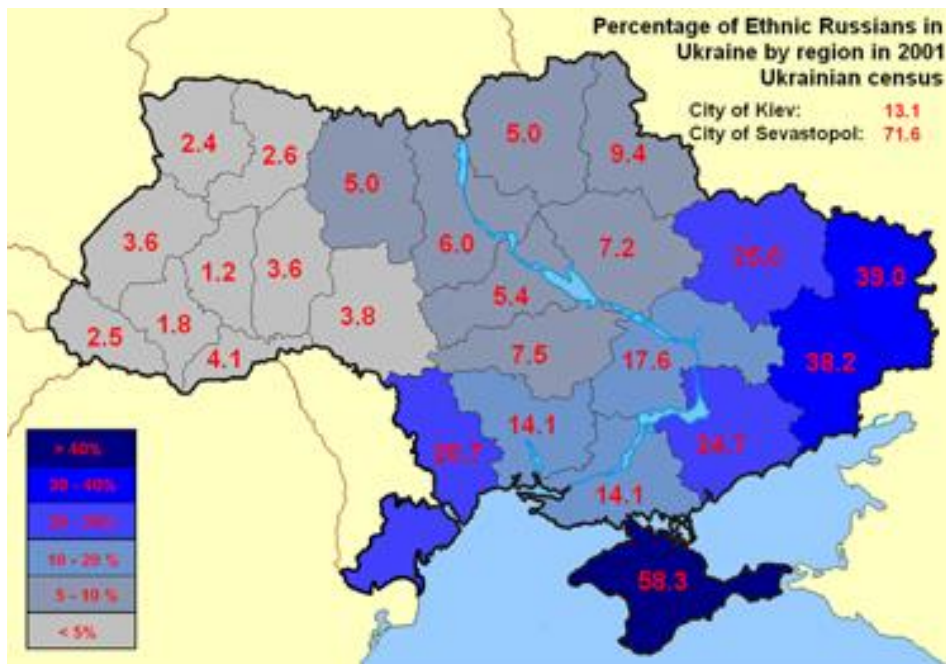
...The proposal concerning the agenda is considered adopted.

...The Crimean Oblast', as is well-known, occupies the entire Crimean Peninsula, territorially adjoins the Ukrainian Republic, and is a sort of natural continuation of the southern steppes of Ukraine. The economy of the Crimean Oblast' is closely tied to the economy of the Ukrainian SSR. The transfer of the Crimean Oblast' to the fraternal Ukrainian Republic is advisable and meets the common interests of the Soviet state for geographic and economic considerations.

...The transfer of the Crimean Oblast to the Ukraine Republic meets the interests of strengthening the friendship of the peoples of the great Soviet Union.

### Document 2

**Source:** "The Conflict in Ukraine: a Historical Perspective," Harvard Summer School Blog.



### Document 3

**Source:** Interview with Robert Ortung, assistant director of the George Washington University Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, 5 February 2014

All eyes are on Russia as the country pulls together its final plans for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. Threats of terrorism have made preparations for the monumental event more difficult, and the Russian government has faced criticism for how it has handled security measures and operations to carry out the \$51 billion project—the most expensive games in history...

**Q: What is Russia doing to protect not just athletes and spectators but the country as a whole?**

A: Russia has imposed what President Vladimir Putin called a “ring of steel” around Sochi. The authorities have deployed at least 72,000 police and soldiers to protect the athletes and spectators. There are also considerable military and intelligence resources on hand. While it is impossible to predict what will happen, everyone from President Barack Obama on down suggests that the games will be safe. The U.S. announced its own plan to rescue the American team if necessary, and is deploying two ships in the Black Sea and making other preparations at an air base in Germany.



### Document 4

**Source:** New York Time Article, “Putin Reclaims Crimea for Russia and Bitterly Denounces the West.” Steven Lee Myers and Ellen Barry. 18 March 2014.

MOSCOW — President Vladimir V. Putin reclaimed Crimea as a part of Russia on Tuesday, reversing what he described as a historic injustice inflicted by the Soviet Union 60 years ago and brushing aside international condemnation [disapproval] that could leave Russia isolated for years to come.

...Speaking to the country’s political elite in the Grand Kremlin Palace, he said he did not seek to divide Ukraine any further, but he vowed to protect Russia’s interests there from what he described as Western actions that had left Russia feeling cornered.

“Crimea has always been an integral part of Russia in the hearts and minds of people,” Mr. Putin declared in his address...A theme coursing throughout his remarks was the restoration of Russia after a period of humiliation following the Soviet collapse, which he has famously called “the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century.”

## Document 5

**Source:** Washington Post Map, 17 February 2017

Heavy fighting continues around Debaltseve despite the cease-fire, as pro-Russian rebels surround Ukrainian soldiers guarding the strategic crossroads and railroad hub there.

